

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 05325 172048Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
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R 171615 AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7014

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 5325

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP DA PGOV
SUBJ: DANISH DOMESTIC POLITICS

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 5272; (B) COPENHAGEN 5277

1. AS REPORTED IN REF A, FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY EIGIL JORGENSEN GAVE AMBASSADOR MANSHEL AN APPRAISAL OF THE CURRENT DANISH INTER-PARTY MANEUVERING REPORTED IN REF B.

BASICALLY JORGENSEN BELIEVES THAT THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE

THAT CURRENT TALKS BETWEEN PARTY LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS, WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT ON MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES AND A COALITION GOVERNMENT, THUS REMOVING THE THREAT OF A NEW ELECTION IN THE FALL AND INTRODUCING A PERIOD--PERHAPS TWO YEARS--OF POLITICAL STABILITY.

2. JORGENSEN IS ENCOURAGED BECAUSE THE POLITICAL TALKS SEEM FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN ANYONE HAD ANTICIPATED. HE ATTRIBUTES THIS FIRST TO THE FACT THAT THE LIBERALS AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS ARE NOT SO FAR APART ON MAJOR ECONOMIC ISSUES THAT THESE CANNOT BE COMPROMISED. (JORGENSEN DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE GREAT BELT BRIDGE PROJECT, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS AND THE LIBERALS OPPOSE, WOULD BY
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ITSELF DETER A COALITION.) SECONDLY, JORGENSEN IS CONVINCED THAT BOTH PARTIES REALIZE FULLY THAT AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES AT THIS TIME WILL HAVE A BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON THE BIENNIAL GENERAL LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS THAT BEGIN IN NOVEMBER. EMPLOYING THE MORE CONSERVATIVE ECONOMIC POLICIES PROPOSED BY THE LIBERALS TO OPPOSE TRADE UNION WAGE AND BENEFIT DEMANDS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER

TO ACHIEVE THE WAGE RESTRIANT THAT IS VITAL TO THE PRESENT
GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING DENMARK'S WORRISOME BALANCE
OF PAYEMENTS POSITION.

3. IT A COALITION GOVERNMENT IS NOT FORMED, JORGENSEN FORESEES
DEFEAT FOR SOME OF THE MAJOR ECONOMIC PROPOSALS THAT THE GOVERN-
MENT WILL PRESENT TO PARLIAMENT AFTER IT CONVENES IN OCT. IN SUCH
AN EVENT, JORGENSEN SAYS, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD CALL FOR
ELECTIONS
IN NOV OR DEC.

4. JORGENSEN EXPECTS THAT THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WILL BE DECISIVE FOR
THE OUTCOME
OF THE PRESENT TALKS.

5. COMMENT: LIKE JORGENSEN, MORE AND MORE OBSERVERS ARE BECOMING
LESS CERTAIN OF THE EARLIER AND WIDELY HELD VIEW THAT FALL GENERAL
ELECTIONS WERE INEVITIABLE.
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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

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